

IDAHO EMPLOYMENT

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A ward-Winning Newsletter

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UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT INCREASES

Effective July 1, the maximum weekly benefit for individuals filing new Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims will increase to \$316, a 0.003 percent increase over the current maximum benefit of \$315.

Idaho law sets the maximum weekly benefit amount at 60 percent of the average weekly wage for the preceding calendar year (2001), rounded to the next lower full dollar amount.

- Average Covered Employment for 2001 was 558,413, up from 550,075 in 2000.
- Total Covered Wages for 2001 were \$15,315,831,899, up from \$15,454,662,567 in 2000.
- The Average Annual Wage for 2001 was \$27,427.43, up from \$27,368.00 in 2000.
- The Average Weekly Wage for 2001 was \$527.45, up from \$526.31 in 2000.
- Sixty percent of the Average Weekly Wage for 2001 was \$316.47, up from \$315.78 in 2000.

State Overview

IDAHO UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECREASED TO 5.0 PERCENT

Labor force details for the state, labor market areas, counties, and cities can be found in State Table 1 on page 3.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for May 2002 was at 5.0 percent, down two-tenths of a percentage point from April. This is the lowest rate since the events of September 11, when the rate was 5.1 percent. Idaho's May rate is one-tenth of a percentage point above the 4.9 percent rate experienced one year ago. The current unemployment rate is below the national rate of 5.8 percent, which is down two-tenths of a percentage point from April.

Nationally, the number employed decreased by 0.8 million people between May 2001 and May 2002. This was a 0.6 percent decrease compared to a 0.9 percent increase in Idaho. Nationally, the number unemployed increased 34.5 percent compared to a 3.9 percent increase in Idaho.

While the news of a drop in the unemployment rate is good, the story behind the numbers is mixed. Idaho's seasonally adjusted *Civilian Labor Force* decreased for the third consecutive month to 687,300 in May, down 2,000 people from April and 5,000 people or 1.0 percent from February 2002. (February had the highest number of people in the labor force this year.) This drop is a result of decreases in both the number of people unemployed and the number of people employed. Between April and May, the number of people unemployed decreased by 1,300 to 34,600, which is 3,500 less than February. The 652,700 persons employed is a decrease of 700 from April and a decrease of 2,000 from February.

The drop in the unemployment rate and the number of jobless does not necessarily indicate that Idaho's economy is turning a corner and beginning to improve. What it does show is that people are leaving Idaho's labor force. Although there was an increase in employment of 8,700 in the May unadjusted data, there were still not enough jobs to meet the needs of Idaho's labor force. The fact that there were new jobs is positive, but it does not mean that Idaho's economy is on a major upswing. When job seekers are unable to find a job, they may leave the labor force, perhaps relocating and finding employment in another state. Job seekers receiving unemployment insurance benefits may exhaust their benefits without finding employment and drop out of the labor force. They may become discouraged and quit looking for work, and thus are no longer counted as part of the labor force.

However, there was job growth across the state and it continued to offset the layoffs. Industries experiencing an increase in activity during May were *Construction, Logging, Food Processing, Retail Trade* (all major sectors), and *Government*. Many of these jobs are seasonal in na-

ture. *Educational Services* experienced the largest job loss in May because of a seasonal factor — the end of the semester at the state's largest private college, BYU-Idaho.

Unadjusted employment since 1991 traditionally has experienced significant growth between April and May. Since 1991, the April to May growth has averaged 13,100 new jobs. The largest number of new jobs created for that time period was 15,100 in 1993. This year, 8,700 new jobs were created between April and May, marking the lowest amount of increase for that time period since 1978 when the current methodology began to be used. Since 1991, this year was the only year with job growth of less than 10,000 between April and May.

The purpose of seasonally adjusting data is to provide an economic trend. A historic series of unadjusted employment data is used to calculate what portion of the employment growth is due to the addition of new jobs every year because of seasonal factors. These factors include an increase in activity in a variety of industries that normally experience a growth in employment levels (i.e., tourism, agriculture, construction, etc.). Since the expected average growth of nearly 13,000 new jobs did not occur between April and May this year, the seasonal factor reduced employment growth slightly. In other words, because the addition of only 8,700 new jobs between April and May this year was less than expected, the seasonally adjusted employment level did not reflect a significant growth in the creation of new jobs. The data indicates a slowing in the growth rate. The slowdown could be related to several factors such as weather, the start or completion of major construction or business projects, changes in the economy, or a variety of other reasons. Whatever the reason, the number of new jobs in May 2002 did not keep pace with prior years.

AREA LABOR FORCE HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment rates are calculated each month for eight Labor Market Areas (LMAs) in Idaho. The Panhandle LMA had the highest unemployment rate in May at 8.1 percent, seasonally adjusted. This area typically has a high unemployment rate, generally alternating with the Idaho-Lewis LMA as the LMA with the highest monthly unemployment rate. The Panhandle's unemployment rate typically runs higher than most other LMAs, because of (1) the long-term decline in its traditional mainstay industries of *Lumber & Wood Products* and *Mining*; (2) the high level of unemployment in the winter months, caused by the relative importance of tourism, forest-related, and construction jobs, which makes the average annual unemployment rate higher and in turn makes seasonally adjusted unemployment rates higher; and (3) the rapid population growth in the Panhandle, which sometimes is faster than job growth.

The Bonneville LMA reported the lowest unemployment rate in May at 3.5 percent seasonally adjusted, edging out the Magic Valley MSA rate of 3.8 percent. The Bonneville LMA has had the lowest unemployment rate for LMAs for every month in 2002. The *Service* industrial sector accounts for one in three jobs in the Bonneville LMA's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. Contactors at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) are major employers in this area as well as in the *Service* sector. Other major industrial sectors

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or to the Regional Labor Economists noted in each area news section.

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include *Retail Trade* (18.3 percent) and *Government* (17.5 percent).

COUNTY LABOR FORCE

Of the 44 counties in the state, two experienced double-digit seasonally adjusted unemployment rates in May.

- » Clearwater County at 11.2 percent, down from 11.8 percent in April.
- » Adams County at 11.2 percent, down from 12.4 percent in April.

Five counties reported a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate below 3.0 percent in May.

- » Madison County at 1.6 percent, up from 1.5 percent in April.
- » Camas County at 2.8 percent, unchanged from April.
- » Oneida County at 2.9 percent, down from 3.4 percent in April.
- » Blaine County at 2.9 percent, down from 3.5 percent in April.
- » Butte County at 2.9 percent, down from 3.3 percent in April.

Twelve other counties reported unemployment rates 4.0 percent or below—Latah, Bonneville, Gooding, Franklin, Clark, Jefferson, Jerome, Nez Perce, Teton, Bear Lake, Twin Falls, and Bingham.

CITY LABOR FORCE

Unemployment rates are calculated for seven cities in Idaho. Nampa experienced the highest rate in May at 6.3 percent, down one-tenth from April. Since April 2001, Nampa has frequently had the highest unemployment rate following a large number of layoffs in their electronics sector. The lowest rates were in Idaho Falls and Lewiston, both at 3.4 percent. Idaho Falls was down one-tenth of a percentage point while Lewiston was unchanged from April.

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture employment in Idaho increased 8.2 percent, at 37,370, from April. This reflects an 11.1 percent gain in *Hired Workers*, and an 8.9 percent gain in *Unpaid Family*. The number of *Hired Workers* is 6.9 percent higher than May 2001. The number of *Unpaid Family* was unchanged from last year. The number of agricultural workers normally increases throughout the spring until it peaks in July. Irrigators, sheepherders, ranch hands, dairy workers, and landscape laborers are needed. Current information on agricultural activity is available in the publication, *Idaho Farm Update* at <http://www.jobservice.us/lmi/pubs/farmlabor.pdf>.

State Table 1: May 2002 Labor Force (preliminary)

Seasonally Adjusted	Labor Force	Unemp.	% Unemp.	Total Emp.
Seaport LMA	34,804	1,421	4.1	33,383
Nez Perce County	23,292	891	3.8	22,401
Asotin County, WA	11,513	530	4.6	10,983
Boise City MSA	252,355	11,601	4.6	240,754
Ada County	182,459	7,526	4.1	174,932
Canyon County	69,896	4,075	5.8	65,821
Pocatello City MSA*	40,979	2,100	5.1	38,879
Bonneville LMA	82,007	2,847	3.5	79,160
Bingham County	22,314	887	4.0	21,427
Bonneville County	47,581	1,536	3.2	46,046
Butte County	1,624	48	2.9	1,577
Jefferson County	10,487	376	3.6	10,111
Cassia-Minidoka LMA	18,875	1,031	5.5	17,844
Cassia County	9,367	483	5.2	8,883
Minidoka County	9,508	547	5.8	8,961
Idaho-Lewis LMA	7,735	612	7.9	7,123
Idaho County	6,175	505	8.2	5,670
Lewis County	1,560	107	6.8	1,453
Panhandle LMA	91,712	7,437	8.1	84,275
Benewah County	4,460	412	9.2	4,049
Bonner County	17,878	1,435	8.0	16,443
Boundary County	4,563	323	7.1	4,240
Kootenai County	58,138	4,664	8.0	53,474
Shoshone County	6,673	604	9.0	6,069
Magic Valley LMA	50,184	1,913	3.8	48,271
Gooding County	6,972	226	3.2	6,746
Jerome County	9,382	342	3.6	9,040
Twin Falls County	33,829	1,345	4.0	32,484
Adams County	1,595	178	11.2	1,417
Bear Lake County	2,732	108	4.0	2,623
Blaine County	12,175	355	2.9	11,821
Boise County	2,728	134	4.9	2,594
Camas County	396	11	2.8	385
Caribou County	3,274	211	6.5	3,062
Clark County	625	21	3.4	604
Clearwater County	3,712	416	11.2	3,296
Custer County	2,074	141	6.8	1,933
Elmore County	9,713	622	6.4	9,091
Franklin County	5,141	167	3.2	4,974
Fremont County	4,749	250	5.3	4,499
Gem County	6,145	500	8.1	5,645
Latah County	15,965	490	3.1	15,475
Lemhi County	3,701	219	5.9	3,483
Lincoln County	1,893	99	5.2	1,795
Madison County	12,352	192	1.6	12,161
Oneida County	1,727	50	2.9	1,677
Owyhee County	4,262	209	4.9	4,053
Payette County	9,761	695	7.1	9,066
Power County	3,276	267	8.1	3,010
Teton County	3,713	144	3.9	3,570
Valley County	4,023	329	8.2	3,694
Washington County	4,444	366	8.2	4,078
State of Idaho	687,313	34,605	5.0	652,708
Idaho Cities				
Boise	115,723	4,732	4.1	110,991
Coeur d'Alene	20,534	1,263	6.2	19,271
Idaho Falls	29,400	993	3.4	28,407
Lewiston	19,901	676	3.4	19,224
Nampa	21,425	1,351	6.3	20,074
Pocatello	29,351	1,455	5.0	27,896
Twin Falls	17,671	729	4.1	16,942

* Pocatello MSA includes all of Bannock County.

Although most of the state is recovering from the severe drought conditions reported last year, drought emergencies have been declared in ten counties this year. Power County was the latest county to be declared a drought emergency area where irrigators face severely restricted water supplies because the American Falls Reservoir is currently at 59 percent of capacity. The National Resources Conservation Service's surface water supply index of the Snake River above American Falls indicates this year will be the ninth lowest in the last 50 years. The other nine counties that have been declared drought emergency areas are: Bingham, Blaine, Bonneville, Butte, Clark, Fremont, Custer, Lincoln, and Madison. These declarations allow water users to work with the Department of Water Resources to temporarily reallocate water rights and secure temporary water rights to obtain enough water to make it through the summer.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs continued to grow in May as the number of jobs reached 569,300. The number of new jobs created in May was 3,500 more than April but the year-over-year comparison shows a decrease of 2,500 jobs, down 0.4 percent. The job growth from April was split between the two major sectors – *Goods-Producing Industries* (200 new jobs) and *Service-Producing Industries* (1,500 new jobs). However, job loss between May 2001 and May 2002 was in *Goods-Producing Industries* as 7,700 jobs have been lost. The loss was offset by a gain of 5,200 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*. (For more information, see State Table 2 on page 5.)

Goods-Producing Industries accounted for 108,300 jobs in May, up from 106,300 in April, but down from 116,000 in May 2001. This major industry group accounted for 19.0 percent of the *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* in May.

Mining

Mining employment experienced an increase of 200 jobs from April to May. The job growth was in *Nonmetal Mining* as a result of a seasonal increase in the activity in the phosphate mines in eastern Idaho as the weather improved.

Construction

Construction accounted for the majority of the growth in the *Goods-Producing Industries* as 1,800 new jobs in May brought employment to 36,200. Although construction activity appears to be increasing in 2002, the growth has slowed considerably as demonstrated by the loss of 2,200 jobs since May 2001. The number of jobs created in 2002 varied between the three *Construction* sectors. *Special Trade Contractors* experienced the largest gain month-over-month with 1,000 new

jobs. The change from last year was also the largest in this construction group with a loss of 1,400 jobs. *Heavy Construction* had 600 new jobs from April 2002 but lost 300 jobs from one year ago as number of major highway projects slowed in 2002. *Building Construction* added the fewest new jobs in May with 200; the number of jobs is down 500 from May 2001. The slowdown in both the economy and population has contributed to the reduction in building construction the past 12 months.

Manufacturing

The number of jobs in *Manufacturing* was unchanged at 70,200 in May. The addition of 400 jobs in *Logging* offset minor losses in other sectors. The increase in the number of jobs in the *Logging* sector brought the employment level to 1,700 in May as the activity in forests and demand for logs increased.

The number of jobs in the *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components except Computer Equipment* decreased 100 jobs in May, bringing total employment to 12,900. The number of workers in the *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* also decreased 100 workers in May, bringing total employment in this sector to 9,300. What once was the fastest growing industrial sector in Idaho has experienced major job losses since April 2001. The combined number of jobs in these two industrial sectors, commonly referred to as the electronics industry, is at 22,200, which is 31.6 percent of the jobs in *Manufacturing* and the largest sector. However, the number of jobs in this sector is 3,900 fewer than the 26,100 jobs reported in January 2001 — a 14.9 percent drop.

Unlike the *Durable Goods* sector, the number of jobs in the *Manufacturing Nondurable Goods* dropped by 200 jobs to 27,300 in May 2002. The numbers indicate that 200 jobs were lost in the *Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables, & Food Specialists*, which was due to a general seasonal slowdown as the processing plants had completed most of the work on the 2001 crop. The loss of 100 jobs in *Paper Products* was offset by a gain of 100 jobs in *Other Nondurable Goods*. The number of jobs in *Manufacturing Nondurable Goods* is 1,700 less than May 2001. The job loss was in every sector of this industry group. The largest drop, 800 jobs, was in *Food Processing*.

Service-Producing Industries employment in May was at 461,000, adding 1,500 new jobs from April and 5,200 from May 2001. *Retail Trade* and *Government* added more than 1,100 jobs in May. *Eating and Drinking Places*, the largest component of the *Retail Trade* industry, continued to add employment in May as customer demand increased. The number of jobs

(continued on page 25)

State Table 2: Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

BY PLACE OF WORK	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	569,300	565,800	571,800	0.6	-0.4
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	108,300	106,300	116,000	1.9	-6.6
Mining	1,900	1,700	2,200	11.8	-13.6
Metal Mining	500	500	900	0.0	-44.4
Construction	36,200	34,400	38,400	5.2	-5.7
Manufacturing	70,200	70,200	75,400	0.0	-6.9
Durable Goods	42,900	42,700	46,400	0.5	-7.5
Lumber & Wood Products	10,500	10,100	10,900	4.0	-3.7
Logging	1,700	1,300	1,300	30.8	30.8
Sawmills & Planing Mills	4,000	4,000	4,600	0.0	-13.0
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	1,100	1,100	1,100	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	3,700	3,700	3,900	0.0	-5.1
Stone, Clay, Glass & Concrete Products	1,600	1,600	1,500	0.0	6.7
Fabricated Metal Products, exc. Machinery & Transportation Equip.	2,800	2,800	3,000	0.0	-6.7
Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment	9,300	9,400	10,200	-1.1	-8.8
Electronic & Other Electrical Equip. & Components, Exc., Computer	12,900	13,000	14,800	-0.8	-12.8
Transportation Equipment	2,100	2,100	2,300	0.0	-8.7
Other Durable Goods	3,700	3,700	3,700	0.0	0.0
Nondurable Goods	27,300	27,500	29,000	-0.7	-5.9
Food Processing	16,400	16,600	17,200	-1.2	-4.7
Canned, Frozen, & Preserved Fruits, Vegetables & Food Specialties	8,800	9,000	9,500	-2.2	-7.4
Paper Products	2,000	2,100	2,100	-4.8	-4.8
Printing, Publishing & Allied Products	4,900	4,900	5,200	0.0	-5.8
Chemicals & Allied Products	2,000	2,000	2,400	0.0	-16.7
Other Nondurable Goods	2,000	1,900	2,100	5.3	-4.8
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	461,000	459,500	455,800	0.3	1.1
Transportation, Communications, & Utilities	27,400	27,400	28,000	0.0	-2.1
Transportation	17,000	17,000	17,500	0.0	-2.9
Railroad	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0	0.0
Motor Freight Transportation & Warehousing	9,900	9,900	10,100	0.0	-2.0
Communications	6,400	6,400	6,500	0.0	-1.5
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	4,000	4,000	4,000	0.0	0.0
Trade	139,900	138,900	141,900	0.7	-1.4
Wholesale Trade	31,700	31,700	31,900	0.0	-0.6
Durable Goods	14,800	14,700	14,900	0.7	-0.7
Nondurable Goods	16,900	17,000	17,000	-0.6	-0.6
Retail Trade	108,200	107,200	110,000	0.9	-1.6
Building Materials, Hardware, Garden Supply & Manuf. Home Dealers	6,900	6,700	6,900	3.0	0.0
General Merchandise Stores	13,800	13,800	13,500	0.0	2.2
Food Stores	18,400	18,300	19,000	0.5	-3.2
Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations	12,200	12,200	12,400	0.0	-1.6
Eating & Drinking Places	38,100	37,500	38,700	1.6	-1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	24,600	24,600	24,000	0.0	2.5
Banking	7,500	7,500	7,400	0.0	1.4
Services	152,900	153,500	149,300	-0.4	2.4
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	7,300	7,300	7,600	0.0	-3.9
Personal Services	4,400	4,300	4,500	2.3	-2.2
Business Services	29,500	29,500	29,100	0.0	1.4
Amusement and Recreation Services	7,100	7,000	7,000	1.4	1.4
Health Services	40,300	40,300	37,800	0.0	6.6
Hospitals	13,800	13,900	12,700	-0.7	8.7
Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services	20,200	20,000	19,200	1.0	5.2
Government	116,200	115,100	112,600	1.0	3.2
Federal Government	13,100	12,700	12,900	3.1	1.6
State & Local Government	103,100	102,400	99,700	0.7	3.4
State Government	30,000	29,700	29,500	1.0	1.7
Education	14,800	14,600	14,300	1.4	3.5
Administration	15,200	15,100	15,200	0.7	0.0
Local Government	73,100	72,700	70,200	0.6	4.1
Education	41,200	41,200	40,300	0.0	2.2
Administration	31,900	31,500	29,900	1.3	6.7

* Preliminary Estimate

** Estimates include all full or part time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay in the following industry groups during the pay period ending nearest the 12th of the month.

DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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State Table 3: Economic Indicators

				% Change From					
	May 2002	April 2002	May 2001	Last Month	Last Year				
IDAHO LABOR FORCE ⁽¹⁾									
Seasonally Adjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	687,300	689,300	680,100	-0.3	1.1				
Unemployment	34,600	35,900	33,300	-3.6	3.9				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	5.2	4.9						
Total Employment	652,700	653,400	646,800	-0.1	0.9				
Unadjusted									
Civilian Labor Force	688,400	684,700	681,200	0.5	1.1				
Unemployment	33,000	38,000	31,700	-13.2	4.1				
Percent of Labor Force Unemployed	4.8	5.5	4.7						
Total Employment	655,400	646,700	649,500	1.3	0.9				
U. S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ⁽²⁾	5.8	6.0	4.4						
U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX ⁽²⁾									
Urban Wage Earners & Clerical Workers (CPI-W)	175.8	175.8	174.4	0.0	0.8				
All Urban Consumer (CPI-U)	179.8	179.8	177.7	0.0	1.2				
AGRICULTURE									
Agriculture Employment	37,370	34,540	35,570	8.2	5.1				
Operators	9,010	9,010	9,010	0.0	0.0				
Unpaid Family	610	560	610	8.9	0.0				
Hired Workers	27,750	24,970	25,950	11.1	6.9				
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE									
Claims Activities									
Initial Claims ⁽³⁾	10,499	12,620	8,460	-16.8	24.1				
Weeks Claimed ⁽⁴⁾	94,091	128,579	59,029	-26.8	59.4				
Benefit Payment Activities⁽⁵⁾									
Weeks Compensated	79,905	112,029	59,846	-28.7	33.5				
Total Benefit \$ Paid	\$17,745,622	\$25,192,369	\$12,617,804	-29.6	40.6				
Average Weekly Benefit Amount	\$222.08	\$224.87	\$210.84	-1.2	5.3				
Covered Employers	40,093	39,947	39,980	0.4	0.3				
Total Benefit \$ Paid During Last 12 Months ⁽⁴⁾	\$190,422,000	\$185,294,182	\$120,704,930	2.8	57.8				
(1) Preliminary Estimate									
(2) Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics									
(3) Includes all entitlements/programs on Intrastate and Interstate Agent, New, and Additional Claims									
(4) Includes all entitlements/programs, Intrastate and Interstate Agent									
(5) Includes all entitlements/programs, Total Liable Activities									
HOURS AND EARNINGS									
	Average Weekly Earnings*			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	May 2002	April 2002	May 2001	May 2002	April 2002	May 2001	May 2002	April 2002	May 2001
Mining	\$668.95	\$643.73	\$610.74	39.7	39.3	39.0	\$16.85	\$16.38	\$15.66
Construction	\$648.33	\$616.71	\$653.80	36.9	36.6	39.6	\$17.57	\$16.85	\$16.51
Total Manufacturing	\$591.95	\$588.30	\$565.50	37.8	37.4	37.5	\$15.66	\$15.73	\$15.08
Lumber & Wood Products	\$539.81	\$556.48	\$528.52	37.1	37.0	36.5	\$14.55	\$15.04	\$14.48
Food & Kindred Products	\$436.23	\$436.97	\$466.10	37.0	37.0	39.4	\$11.79	\$11.81	\$11.83
Communications	\$788.98	\$824.85	\$676.66	41.2	42.3	38.6	\$19.15	\$19.50	\$17.53
Electric, Gas, & Sanitary Services	\$736.94	\$783.18	\$841.02	36.5	37.1	39.3	\$20.19	\$21.11	\$21.40
Trade	\$321.90	\$325.63	\$327.19	29.0	29.1	30.1	\$11.10	\$11.19	\$10.87
Wholesale Trade	\$518.85	\$518.34	\$521.59	35.2	35.6	38.1	\$14.74	\$14.56	\$13.69
Retail Trade	\$268.63	\$274.27	\$274.54	27.3	27.4	27.9	\$9.84	\$10.01	\$9.84
DATA PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS									
* These average earnings are computed on a gross basis and reflect changes in premium pay for overtime and late shift work as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive wage									



PANHANDLE

BENEWAH, BONNER, BOUNDARY, KOOTENAI, & SHOSHONE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Panhandle's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up from 8.0 percent in April to 8.1 percent in May. Businesses remained uncertain about the strength of the U.S. economic recovery and the prospects for the summer tourist season, so they hired fewer workers than they normally do. The Panhandle added 1,490 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* between April and May. In an average year in the four prior years, the Panhandle added 1,725 jobs between April and May. Industries adding fewer jobs this year than normal included logging, gravel pits, trucking, retail stores, hotels and motels, restaurants, amusement centers, and nonprofit organizations.

All Other Manufacturing (all manufacturing industries except *Lumber & Wood Products*) remained constant at 4,410 jobs between April and May. The May numbers do not reflect the layoff of 118 people from the Harpers furniture plant in Post Falls that occurred at the end of May. All *Other Manufacturing* employment peaked at 4,704 in November 2000. Since then, plastics, electronics, metal products, furniture, printing, newspaper publishing, and machine shops have cut jobs.

Despite the sluggishness of the Panhandle economy, the unemployment rate of 8.1 percent this May was significantly below the 8.8 percent of May 2001. A year ago, Shoshone County was still reeling from the closure of its largest employer, the Sunshine mine. The rest of the Panhandle experienced wrenching layoffs in lumber, electronics, retail, and manufacturing in early 2001. In addition, layoffs by Spokane employers put many Panhandle residents out of work. Contributing to the high unemployment in May 2001 was exceptionally cool, rainy weather that idled many loggers, construction workers, and farm laborers.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Benewah County

- The U.S. Forest Service gave the St. Maries downtown improvement project an \$11,670 grant to put up eight historical signs and to build two small kiosks where visitors will find maps, brochures, and fliers about attractions and community events. The kiosks will complement the \$2.1 million

Panhandle Table 1: Labor Force & Employment

	May 2002*	April 2001	May 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	91,710	91,690	89,040	0.0	3.0
Unemployed	7,440	7,340	7,830	1.4	-5.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.1%	8.0%	8.8%		
Total Employment	84,270	84,350	81,210	-0.1	3.8
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	91,620	91,390	88,930	0.3	3.0
Unemployed	7,100	8,660	7,490	-18.0	-5.2
% of Labor Force Unemployed	7.7%	9.5%	8.4%		
Total Employment	84,520	82,730	81,440	2.2	3.8
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	68,390	66,900	67,350	2.2	1.5
Goods-Producing Industries	13,230	12,760	13,890	3.7	-4.8
Mining	550	540	870	1.9	-36.8
Construction	4,540	4,140	4,660	9.7	-2.6
Manufacturing	8,140	8,080	8,360	0.7	-2.6
Lumber & Wood Products	3,730	3,670	3,770	1.6	-1.1
All Other Manufacturing	4,410	4,410	4,590	0.0	-3.9
Service-Producing Industries	55,160	54,140	53,460	1.9	3.2
Transportation	1,360	1,350	1,380	0.7	-1.4
Communication & Utilities	1,110	1,090	1,080	1.8	2.8
Wholesale Trade	2,180	2,160	2,210	0.9	-1.4
Retail Trade	14,570	14,210	14,840	2.5	-1.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	2,780	2,670	2,690	4.1	3.3
Service & Miscellaneous	18,280	17,990	16,770	1.6	9.0
Government Administration	9,310	9,120	8,880	2.1	4.8
Government Education	5,570	5,550	5,610	0.4	-0.7

* Preliminary estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

downtown improvement project currently underway. Timber Plus, the St. Maries economic development organization, applied for the grant. It recently applied for another Forest Service grant that could provide up to \$55,000 to build a visitor's center.

- Fernwood residents Bob and Sandie Scott recently purchased Kay-Dee Lanes, the bowling alley in St. Maries. In early July, they reopened the bowling alley's restaurant and bar and renamed it St. Maries Bowling Restaurant and Lounge.
- Don and Lani McCosker reopened the Gem State Grill in late June. The restaurant on Main Avenue in St. Maries had closed a year ago. It serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Kootenai County

- Discount Communications, the Coeur d'Alene-based television satellite dish and cellular telephone company, saw its employment grow from three jobs three years ago to more than 50 today. Needing more room, it is moving from its 2,800-square-foot space in Harbor Plaza to an 8,000-square-foot building at 315 West Dalton Avenue. Discount Communications has become one of the largest TV dish retailers in the U.S. It has distribution and service centers in Washington and California. Discount Com-

munications expects to hire 15 more people in the next few months and to celebrate the grand opening of its new location in September.

- Gottschalk's is selling its 44,000-square-foot store at the Silver Lake Mall in Coeur d'Alene to the Bon Marché. The Gottschalk's department store, which employs 34 people, will close by the end of July. The Bon Marché, which operates upscale department stores, will move into the store by the beginning of November. The Bon Marché plans to keep its 4,600-square-foot boutique in the Coeur d'Alene Resort's shopping plaza in downtown Coeur d'Alene. This is the third time the Silver Lake space has changed hands. Fred Meyers opened a department store there when the Silver Lake Mall opened in 1989. A couple of years later, Lamont's moved into the space. After Lamont's closed all its stores in 2000, Gottschalk's moved into the space.
- Mullan Square, a new mini-mall next to the Post Falls Wal-Mart, recently welcomed its first two tenants—a Papa Murphy's Take 'n' Bake Pizza outlet and a Great Clips hair salon. Radio Shack soon will open a 2,520-square-foot store there. A fourth tenant, Aroma Basics, plans to open at the beginning of September. Owners Bill and Donna White will manufacture and sell natural bath and beauty products. The store also will sell refurbished antiques and gift items developed by Donna White. Mullan Square will be completely full when Washington Mutual Bank opens a 3,500-square-foot branch there in October.
- Several auto dealerships are moving from Coeur d'Alene's Fourth Street to the auto row developing along Interstate 90 in Post Falls. The location along the freeway gives the dealerships high visibility and access to higher volumes of traffic.
- Knudtsen Chevrolet will open its Post Falls dealership in January. It is building a 43,000-square-foot building on six acres, giving it five times more room than its present location on Fourth Street. Currently, its inventory averages about 80 used and 70 new vehicles. In Post Falls, its inventory will expand to 200 used and 125 new vehicles.
- Midway Nissan was one of the first dealers to locate to Post Falls. Midway's owner, Joe Arrotta, recently purchased Ponderosa Motors-Chrysler/Jeep in Coeur d'Alene. He plans to move the dealership from 1902 North Fourth Street to a 16,000-square-foot building under construction next to Midway Nissan. The building is slated for completion by December.
- Coeur d'Alene Subaru has purchased three acres north of the freeway near Nissan Midway and the Knudtsen Chevrolet property. It plans to move into its new 14,000-square-foot building in late fall.
- GoKart Family Fun closed in early June after nine years of providing entertainment at 3515 West Seltice in the Huetter area between Coeur d'Alene and Post Falls. GoKart's owners cited rising insurance costs and increased competition as the reasons for the closure. The Triple Play entertainment complex in Hayden is preparing to add go-cart rides, miniature golf, and bumper boats. About 20 people worked for GoKart Family Fun.

- Burger Heaven, which closed a year ago, reopened in early July. New owners John Herron and his son, Travis, hired six people to work at the restaurant at 731 Highway 53 in Rathdrum.
- Hayden Home Furnishings recently opened at 9521 North Government Way in Hayden. The furniture store's 4,000-square-foot display room features dining room sets, china hutches, sofas, love seats, Italian leather furniture, statues, and fountains
- The Sherman Mall at 412 Sherman Avenue in downtown Coeur d'Alene recently welcomed a new tenant, Road Trip, which is an educational toy and gift store. It sells everything from stationery to gardening equipment, including many books, toys, games, and stuffed animals.
- S.O.S. Surplus, the new store at 1506 Northwest Boulevard in Coeur d'Alene, sells surplus military gear, outdoor equipment, models, video games, and paintball supplies.
- Capers Restaurant, a restaurant featuring gourmet Italian food that had been closed for several months, recently reopened at 315 Walnut under new ownership. One of the new owners, Michael Pierce, has been a chef at the Coeur d'Alene Resort for 11 years.
- This spring, Triple R Denture Clinic & Laboratory moved into a larger building it constructed next to its longtime location at 1028 North Fourth Street in Coeur d'Alene.
- Another dental laboratory is expanding. Quality Dental Laboratory plans to move from its current 1,200-square-foot building at 120 East Fourth Street in Post Falls to a 4,500-square-foot building at 329 North William Street, which is under construction. After it moves in early September, it will expand its staff from 11 to 20.
- Tanglewood Bistro & Pub recently moved a few doors west of its former location to the former Wilson Frank space on the northwest corner of Sherman Avenue and Fifth Street. The move not only gives the restaurant more exposure to the busiest part of downtown Coeur d'Alene, but also allows it to expand.

Shoshone County

- The Wallace School District plans to build a new 65,000-square-foot junior-senior high school in Wallace. The new building will be southwest of the 54-year-old building it will replace. Although the school building will be razed, the gymnasium will be preserved in hopes that a nonprofit organization will use it. About 300 students from grades seven through twelve attend Wallace Junior-Senior High School. The \$7 million construction project will begin this summer and be completed in time for the beginning of the school year in September 2004.

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SEAPORT

NORTH CENTRAL IDAHO: CLEARWATER, IDAHO, LATAH, LEWIS, & NEZ PERCE COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Seaport's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased in May to 4.1 percent from April's rate of 4.2 percent, as shown in Seaport Table 1. In May 2001, the rate was 4.2 percent. May's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased 590 jobs from April 2002, but only increased 40 from May 2001. Most of the increase since April was in *Construction, Services* and *Trade*. In *Construction*, employment increases can be attributed to road work and industrial construction crews. In both *Services* and *Trade* sectors, employment increased from April 2002, but both are lagging behind last year's levels. Since last year, significant employment decreases were recorded in *Agricultural Services* and *Auto Repair Services*.

SPECIAL TOPIC:

New Information from the 2000 Census

With the University of Idaho in its backyard, more than 40 percent of Moscow residents have a bachelor's degree or higher. That's far and away the highest percentage in the state, which averages 22 percent, according to recently released detailed 2000 Census data for Idaho. The information was taken from the long form that was distributed to about one in six Idaho residents. The form requested information on a variety of topics, from marital status and ancestry to personal income and housing costs. Regarding one such topic, residents of Elk River reported one of the state's longest median commutes at 48 minutes. The tiny community of Onaway, north of Moscow, reported that 46 percent of its households have three or more cars; 64 percent of the residents of Ferdinand, just north of Cottonwood, reported German ancestry.

But the census data also reaffirmed the fact that rural Idaho continues to lag far behind the urban and resort areas of the state in terms of household income, further isolating rural areas from the economic boom the state experienced during the last decade. Both Lewis County, at \$31,413, and Idaho County, at \$29,515, ranked toward the bottom for median household income. Ada County ranked toward the top with a median household

Seaport Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Nez Perce County, Idaho, and Asotin County, Washington

	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,800	34,440	34,850	1.0	-0.1
Unemployment	1,420	1,460	1,450	-2.7	-2.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.1	4.2	4.2	-0.1	0.1
Total Employment	33,380	32,990	33,400	1.2	-0.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	34,880	34,550	34,920	1.0	-0.1
Unemployment	1,310	1,490	1,330	-12.1	-1.5
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	4.3	3.8	-0.5	0.0
Total Employment	33,570	33,060	33,590	1.5	-0.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	26,060	25,470	26,020	2.3	0.2
Goods-Producing Industries	5,330	4,970	5,240	7.2	1.7
Mining & Construction	1,580	1,270	1,540	24.4	2.6
Manufacturing	3,750	3,700	3,700	1.4	1.4
Food Processing	70	70	100	0.0	-30.0
Lumber & Wood Products	660	650	680	1.5	-2.9
Paper Products	1,680	1,680	1,650	0.0	1.8
All Other Manufacturing	1,340	1,300	1,270	3.1	5.5
Service-Producing Industries	20,730	20,500	20,780	1.1	-0.2
Transportation	1,370	1,350	1,370	1.5	0.0
Communications & Utilities	270	280	280	-3.6	-3.6
Wholesale Trade	960	930	960	3.2	0.0
Retail Trade	4,970	4,900	5,020	1.4	-1.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,390	1,380	1,400	0.7	-0.7
Services	6,590	6,540	6,890	0.8	-4.4
Government Administration	2,730	2,730	2,630	0.0	3.8
Government Education	2,450	2,390	2,230	2.5	9.9

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

income of \$46,140. That ranked just below Blaine County, where Sun Valley is located, for the highest median income. But those same residents in Lewis County have seen their median home value skyrocket 105 percent since 1990, when it was \$38,500, contrasting with \$78,900 in 2000. The median home value in Ada County has increased only 77 percent.

The disparities in census data between urban and rural become even more evident at the city level. Communities like Lewiston have maintained a fairly strong median household income of \$36,606, as compared with \$42,432 for Boise. But for communities like Weippe, which registered a me-

Seaport Table 2: 2000 Census Data

County	High School or higher	Bachelor's degree or higher	Median Home Income	Poverty status	Home Value
Clearwater	80.1%	13.4%	\$32,071	13.5%	\$80,500
Idaho	82.9%	14.4%	\$29,515	16.3%	\$88,600
Latah	91.0%	41.0%	\$32,524	16.7%	\$126,400
Lewis	84.2%	14.8%	\$31,413	12.0%	\$78,900
Nez Perce	85.5%	18.9%	\$36,282	12.2%	\$105,800
State of Idaho	84.7%	21.7%	\$37,572	11.8%	\$106,300

dian household income of only \$26,442 in 1999, it's been a losing struggle. The lack of industrial diversification in rural areas has forced communities like Pierce and Weippe to live and die by the strength or weakness of the timber industry. To counter the lack of diversification in rural areas, the State of Idaho has allocated \$3.6 million for rural economic development over the next year.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Clearwater County

- Construction has begun for a new King's Discount Department Store in Orofino on the corner of 130th Street and Highway 12 next to Barney's Excell. King's is owned by Tom King of Burley, Idaho. Last year a King's store also was built and opened in Grangeville. The Orofino store will employ 18 to 20 people and should open by late this summer. Dale Fletcher, the Clearwater County building inspector, said the building will be over 1,800-square feet and will include 63 parking places, two of which will be reserved as handicapped spaces. The company plans to act as their own general contractor, but will hire local subcontractors to assist with some aspects of the project.

Idaho & Lewis Counties

- The Northwest Passage Scenic Byway is one of three picturesque routes through northern Idaho. This highway system will receive a portion of a \$20 million grant available from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Scenic Byways Program. The Northwest Passage Scenic Byway passes through the Clearwater River canyon from the junction of U.S. 95 and U.S. 12 near Spalding, and then leaves the river, climbing south to the Camas Prairie. Along the way are numerous Nez Perce cultural sites and Lewis and Clark Expedition campsites. The Nez Perce National Historical Park Museum at Spalding features displays, cultural demonstrations, and a historical movie featuring the traditions of the Nez Perce Tribe. Projects that are eligible for funding under this program include those that will inventory, preserve, and enhance the qualities of the byway; projects involving safety improvements; and construction of bike and pedestrian facilities.
- Newt Systems has opened in Grangeville and is located at 221 West Main, Suite 5. The business sells a variety of computer products and services from designing, building, and selling computer systems to repairing and maintaining computer networks. Newt also offers retail computer parts — everything from hard drives to specially-sized screws. If business owners are unsure of what kind of computer equipment they need, Newt Systems will make on-site visits and make purchase recommendations. The business builds and hosts Web sites, helps people create spreadsheets or databases, and provides instruction on how to use them.

Latah County

- Construction has begun on Park Place Plaza, a professional office condominium project at the Alturas

Technology Park in east Moscow. The new office building will be 10,290-square feet when completed. The first phase includes five offices — three are condominiums for sale and two will be rented. All tenants will share a conference room. Alturas began in 1997 with the idea that Moscow could lure technology companies to town or grow its own technology businesses from start-up companies developed at the University of Idaho business incubator. As an incentive to developers, below ground infrastructure was installed by the Moscow Urban Renewal Agency. Three buildings already have been constructed at Alturas. Two locally developed technology companies occupy two buildings almost entirely. A Moscow law firm built the third structure. Tenants for the newest building include Beckett Accounting, Economic Modeling Specialists, specializing in land management and transportation, McKetta and Associates, specializing in natural resources economics, Ccbenefits, specializing in the economics of higher education, and ABSEARCH, an Asbury Street business that provides electronic databases about wildlife, ecology, and fisheries through the Internet. City planners have approved all of the businesses that will reside inside the special research and technology office zone created for Alturas.

Nez Perce County & Asotin Counties

- The organization that operates St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Lewiston may soon merge with the nation's largest Catholic, not-for-profit health system. Ascension Health and Carondelet Health System, which owns St. Joseph Regional Medical Center, have signed a letter of intent to negotiate a merger, which could be completed by the end of the year. Headquartered in St. Louis, Missouri, Ascension Health has more than 60 hospitals in 15 states and the District of Columbia. The Carondelet Health System operates 15 hospitals in eight states, including Idaho. St. Joseph Regional Medical Center is among the region's largest employers with 880 full- and part-time workers. Patients and employees will not be affected if the merger proceeds, said Doug Johnson, chief financial officer of the medical center. The organizational shift would improve the buying power and credit rating of the Carondelet Health System, something that would control costs and preserve jobs at the Lewiston site, said Howard Hayes, administrator of St. Joseph Regional Medical Center. Hayes believes the change also might help with the hospital's specialist shortage. Ascension has 159 residency programs that train new doctors and the merger might give St. Joseph Regional Medical Center a chance to recruit them.

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TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The May 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.6 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was down one-tenth of a percentage point from April's rate of 4.7 percent, and up six-tenths of a percentage point from May 2001's rate of 4.0 percent. The number of individuals employed increased from April to May by 1,000 individuals, while a decrease of 100 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 11,700 in April to 11,600 in May. The increase in the number employed and the decrease in the number unemployed created a net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 900 individuals from April to May 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 2,400 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the May 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

Treasure Valley Table 2: May 2002 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	182,459	7,526	4.1	174,932
Adams	1,595	178	11.2	1,417
Boise	2,728	134	4.9	2,594
Canyon	69,896	4,075	5.8	65,821
Elmore	9,713	622	6.4	9,091
Gem	6,145	500	8.1	5,645
Owyhee	4,262	209	4.9	4,053
Payette	9,761	695	7.1	9,066
Valley	4,023	329	8.2	3,694
Washington	4,444	366	8.2	4,078
Statewide	687,313	34,605	5.0	652,708

About 1,500 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added to the Boise City MSA between April and May 2002. There was an increase of 700 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* since May 2001. A month-over-month change does not make a trend; however, the ad-

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties

	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,400	251,500	250,000	0.4	1.0
Unemployment	11,600	11,700	10,100	-0.9	14.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	4.7	4.0		
Total Employment	240,800	239,800	239,900	0.4	0.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	252,000	250,300	249,600	0.7	1.0
Unemployment	11,000	11,600	9,500	-5.2	15.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.4	4.6	3.8		
Total Employment	241,000	238,700	240,100	1.0	0.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	232,500	231,000	231,800	0.6	0.3
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	50,900	50,600	53,900	0.6	-5.6
Construction & Mining	16,500	16,200	16,800	1.9	-1.8
Manufacturing	34,400	34,400	37,100	0.0	-7.3
Durable Goods	26,000	26,100	28,500	-0.4	-8.8
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,100	3,100	3.2	3.2
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,300	2,300	4.3	4.3
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,100	1,200	9.1	0.0
Ind & Com Mach & Computer Equip	7,200	7,200	8,000	0.0	-10.0
Electronic & Other Elect Equip. & Comp	11,100	11,200	12,700	-0.9	-12.6
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,600	1,800	1,800	-11.1	-11.1
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,300	8,600	1.2	-2.3
Food & Kindred Products	5,700	5,600	5,800	1.8	-1.7
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	181,600	180,400	177,900	0.7	2.1
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,300	12,200	12,500	0.8	-1.6
Transportation	6,900	6,800	7,000	1.5	-1.4
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Ser	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
Trade	56,700	56,500	56,600	0.4	0.2
Wholesale Trade	13,000	12,900	12,700	0.8	2.4
Durable Goods	8,000	7,900	7,800	1.3	2.6
Nondurable Goods	5,000	5,000	4,900	0.0	2.0
Retail Trade	43,700	43,600	43,900	0.2	-0.5
General Merchandise Stores	5,600	5,500	5,500	1.8	1.8
Foods Stores	7,300	7,300	7,700	0.0	-5.2
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,700	15,500	0.0	1.3
Other Retail Trade	15,100	15,100	15,200	0.0	-0.7
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services	11,900	11,800	11,400	0.8	4.4
Business Services	63,700	63,200	62,100	0.8	2.6
Health Services	14,000	13,800	14,700	1.4	-4.8
Hospitals	19,100	19,200	17,800	-0.5	7.3
Eng, Acct., Res, Mngmt., & Related	9,100	9,200	8,100	-1.1	12.3
Other Services	5,400	5,400	5,100	0.0	5.9
Government	25,200	24,800	24,500	1.6	2.9
Federal Government	37,000	36,700	35,300	0.8	4.8
Education	5,400	5,200	5,200	3.8	3.8
State Government	13,700	13,700	13,100	0.0	4.6
Administration	4,600	4,700	4,300	-2.1	7.0
Local Government	9,100	9,000	8,800	1.1	3.4
Education	17,900	17,800	17,000	0.6	5.3
Administration	11,800	11,800	11,200	0.0	5.4
	6,100	6,000	5,800	1.7	5.2

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

dition of 1,500 jobs is a welcome occurrence. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a gain of 300 jobs month-over-month with the only job losses occurring in *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (100) and *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200). Job gains occurred in *Mining & Construction* (300), *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), and *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,000 jobs. Job losses occurred in: *Mining & Construction* (300), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (800), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,600), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (200), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Printing, Publishing & Allied Products Manufacturing* (100). *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) was the only *Goods-Producing Industry* to create new jobs over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries gained 1,200 jobs between April and May 2002. Job losses in *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (100) and *State Government Education* (100) were outpaced by job increases in *Transportation* (100), *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (100), *Business Services* (200), *Other Services* (400), *Federal Government* (200), *State Government Administration* (100), and *Local Government Administration* (100) to create the net increase in the number of *Service-Producing Industry* jobs over the month. Over the past year, there was an increase of 3,700 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (200), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (200), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (500), *Health Services* (1,300), primarily *Hospitals* (1,000), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* (300), *Other Services* (700), *Federal Government* (200), *State Government Education* (300), *State Government Administration* (300), *Local Government Education* (600), and *Local Government Administration* (300), outpacing job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (100), *Food Stores* (400), *Other Retail Trade* (100), and *Business Services* (700).

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Construction will begin at the site of the Veltex gas station on the corner of Fifth and Main Streets in downtown Boise this fall. The five-story, 50,000-square-foot mixed use building will include retail and office space as well as five luxury penthouse

condos and underground parking. The Veltex sign currently on the property will be placed on the new Veltex Building when construction is complete.

- Costco plans to build a new store off Cole Road south of the Boise Spectrum. The proposed 166,451-square-foot store will feature a 16-pump fuel station, 885 parking spaces, a 5,200-square-foot tire sale and installation center, and a 5,980-square-foot garden center. Nearly 11,000 cars are expected to drive to the location daily; Costco and ACHD have been negotiating a deal to alleviate some of the traffic, although no official statements have been made.
- Best Buy opened its first Idaho store in the former Home Base building on Franklin Road in Boise in mid-June. The retail store sells a large selection of name-brand consumer electronics, personal computers, software, and appliances and employs 150 full- and part-time employees.
- The Boise City Council voted in late June to spend \$15,000 for a public design session, tentatively scheduled July 29-30 for interested persons to get together and brainstorm ideas for the proposed branch library at the corner of Cole and Ustick Roads in Boise. Two libraries are planned for the city with one at this location in west Boise and the other planned for somewhere in southeast Boise; the total cost of both libraries will be \$13 million, and they could open as soon as 2004.
- Several new stores recently opened at Meridian Crossroads Shopping Center at the corner of Eagle Road and Fairview Avenue. These include Marshalls, a discount clothing and giftware retailer, Avonlea, a gift and home décor store that opened in June, and Quizno's, which recently opened its seventh Treasure Valley sandwich shop. Businesses with plans to open in the area in the next few months include Goodwood Barbecue in October and a Fantastic Sams salon.
- The Eagle City Council authorized spending \$4.3 million for a new city hall. The city wants to build a new, 22,000-square-foot city hall on Amanita Street between the library and the post office. The city still needs to give final approval for the project; however, a public hearing must take place first for citizens to comment on the building design. No date was set for the public hearing; groundbreaking is scheduled for October and the building should be completed by summer 2003.
- Recent business happenings in Ada County include several new openings. Some are: a Home Federal Savings branch at 871 East Parkcenter Boulevard in Boise, Claiborn Waite Consulting LLC at 3550 East Commercial Court in Meridian, Club Mantis at the Sports Pub & Grill in the Spectrum Center. Expan-

sions include Catalina's Taco Loco located at 4518 Overland Road in Boise and Riverside Embroidery & Screen Printing located at 753 Meadowland in Boise. Idaho Insurance Associates moved its offices to 2417 Bank Drive in Boise, Tuesday Morning, a specialty discount retailer, plans to open a store at the corner of Fairview and Milwaukee in August, St. Lukes Regional Medical Center leased space on Americana Boulevard and Shoreline Drive for an outpatient imaging center scheduled to open in January, IHOP announced plans to open its third Treasure Valley restaurant on Emerald near Boise Towne Square this fall, and construction of a Jack in the Box will start in late summer or early fall on Capitol Boulevard near BSU.

- RidgeRun, a Boise high-tech firm, closed its doors in late June, creating job losses for 30 employees. The company made a software platform for the emerging "smart phone" market, and leased office space in downtown Boise.
- Extended Systems sold its Singapore subsidiary to a company owned by the subsidiary's manager and a private investor. The \$1 million deal includes a variety of assets, including office equipment, and will allow the Singapore operation, Brookhaven Asia Ltd., to work in conjunction with Extended Systems as well as build its own products. The deal is part of an ongoing move by Extended Systems to become solely a software manufacturer. The company also announced a Bluetooth development and marketing alliance with California-based Conexant Systems, Inc. The alliance will involve merging products from both companies to create a simple, "drop-in" solution for manufacturers of Bluetooth headsets and peripherals. Bluetooth is protocol software developed by Extended Systems.
- ProClarity, a Boise software company, recently announced the opening of a regional office in Germany. The office is based in Bad-Homburg outside of Frankfurt and will serve as the regional headquarters for Austria, Germany, and Switzerland. This opening is the fifth regional office in Europe and will enable ProClarity to better serve its existing distributors, partners, and customers in that region. For the second consecutive year, ProClarity recently received the DM Review World Class Solution award in the business intelligence category for its implementation of the program at the Department of Veterans Affairs Northwest Network. The award recognizes strategic implementations that represent world-class initiatives in business intelligence, analytic applications, data acquisition and integration, and data management.
- An AutoZone store was built at 308 North Tenth Avenue in Caldwell. McAlvain Construction was

awarded the contract and the 7,500-square-foot building was completed in late June/early July. AutoZone also plans another location in Nampa, scheduled to open this fall. The retail outlet offers a broad range of auto replacement parts, accessories, chemicals, and motor oil.

- Farm & City Supply, located at 5520 East Franklin Road near the Idaho Center in Nampa, held a grand opening celebration in early June. The store carries high-end horse tack, veterinary supplies, feed, hay, shavings, shoeing supplies, trailer equipment, pet supplies, western wear, and gifts.
- Groundbreaking occurred on the new Caldwell Fire Department substation in late June. The building will be built near Oregon Street and Ustick Road and will house one engine company to cover the medical runs and fire calls of the area. The 6,000-square-foot building is estimated to cost between \$650,000 and \$900,000. No completion date has been announced for the project.
- Construction of the new sports arena near the Idaho Center in Nampa has begun. The building was enclosed in early July, and completion for the 100,000-square-foot Sports Center is scheduled for September. The first event in the new arena will be the Idaho Cutting Horse Association's state competition; the Sports Center will house the association's new headquarters.
- Recent business happenings in Canyon County include the opening of Freedom Skate Shop at 822 Arthur in Caldwell, the opening of the Birds of Prey Harley Davidson store in Caldwell, and the closing of the Red Eye Hut on Caldwell Boulevard in Nampa.

ADAMS COUNTY

- The Council Hospital District was awarded a \$38,000 Rural Health Care Access Program grant by the State Office of Rural Health of the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare in early June. The grant will be used to pay part of past educational expenses for the community's physician's assistant.
- Several projects recently approved by Adams County include the construction of a snowmobile parking lot in Price Valley, riparian fencing on Council Mountain and at Anderson Creek, and new equipment purchase for the county cooperative weed management association.

BOISE COUNTY

- Bogus Basin Ski Resort recently announced long-term plans to provide nearly two-and-a-half times the existing facility space. The current space is about 41,000-square feet and will increase to about 100,000-square feet of space. Plans include expanding the

main base area and some work to Pioneer Lodge. Eventually, officials would like to see a separate ticket sales building, a new ski rental shop, a retail operation with ski accessories, a ski school, child-care facilities, child learning center, and new housing for the race team. Early estimates regarding the cost of the project is \$7 million. A dramatic increase in the number of skiers and snowboarders in recent years indicated a need for the expansion.

Elmore County

- The Mountain Home Air Force Base (MHAFB) lost two squadrons in early June due to restructuring. When the 22nd Air Refueling Squadron and the 34th Bomb Squadron left the 366th Wing at Mountain Home, MHAFB held a departure ceremony for the departing squadrons witnessed by several hundred civilians and Air Force members. The ceremony included a formal farewell salute, patriotic music and warrior songs by members of the Shoshone-Paiute tribe. The departure resulted in a loss of about 335 persons, but those positions will be replaced by the end of summer.
- The city of Mountain Home held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mountain Home police station. The building is expected to be finished before winter and then the inside will be completed. The building should be open by the beginning of summer 2003.

Gem County

- The Gem County jail bond passed in June after eight failed attempts. Nearly 75 percent of the voters supported the ninth jail bond. Now that the \$2.5 million bond passed, the Citizens' Jail Committee still has work to do such as setting up site surveys and making sure that the building is constructed properly. Construction of the building is scheduled to start in September 2002 and be completed within 12 months.
- Recent business happenings in Gem County include the opening of Autumn Court located on the corner of South Johns Avenue and East Twelfth Street. The company offers housing in a secure environment for seniors or those with health issues when living in a larger home is no longer possible. Also opening in Gem County is the Rumor Mill Bakery and Gift Shoppe.

Payette County

- Property located at the corner of Sixteenth Street and First Avenue South in Payette, owned by Suzanne Boyle, was donated to the city in mid-June. Boyle and her family would like to see the site become a seasonal farmers market or park. No additional information was provided on what the city may do with the donated land.

Valley County

- Valley County commissioners gave WestRock final approval to start work on the four-season resort. WestRock officials continue to discuss infrastructure improvements and upgrades necessary to begin construction. The first phase of construction is expected to begin sometime during the summer of 2004 and will include a golf course, mountaintop restaurant and retail building, a fire station, ski lifts, and 20,000-square feet of commercial space.
- Whitetail Club, the former Shore Lodge, and a new 18-hole golf course opened to the public in mid-June. Shore Lodge closed in September 1999 for a remodel. It then changed owners, name, and focus. Over the past few months, Whitetail has hired 125 employees and put finishing touches on the 77-suite hotel. Company officials announced that the lodge amenities will only be available to lodge guests, members of Whitetail Golf Course, and special events participants. However, the general public was allowed to use the restaurants, swimming pools, and other amenities until July 17. This may be extended as the business managers discuss the future of Whitetail.
- Recent business happenings in Valley County include the following openings: TNT Skateboard Shop in downtown McCall, Native Visions in McCall, West Bridgewater Antiques in New Meadows, and CrossRoads Antiques in New Meadows. A change in ownership of Alpha & Omega Computers in McCall occurred as Mile Leavitt assumed ownership of the business from Bill Orton. Kate Farmer joined the four other physical therapists at Pro-Active Physical Therapy in McCall. Meg Fairfield joined Rumors Salon in McCall as a massage therapist and Candy Kibby joined the salon as a stylist.

Washington County

- The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest and Festival celebrated its 50th anniversary in Weiser this year. The annual festival was held in mid-June. More than 350 fiddlers played in various competitions, more than 1,100 volunteers monitored the festival that featured cow pie bingo, karaoke, high-tech virtual fiddling, a carnival, booths, entertainment, and Bikers Rodeo, in addition to the thousands of fiddlers and spectators that lined the streets of Weiser.

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MAGIC VALLEY

BLAINE, CAMAS, CASSIA, GOODING, JEROME, LINCOLN, MINIDOKA, & TWIN FALLS COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The Magic Valley Labor Market Area's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for May 2002 was 3.8 percent. This rate is unchanged from April 2002 and down two-tenths of a percentage point from May 2001. The number of unemployed persons decreased by 100 persons year-over-year and decreased by 20 from April 2002 to May 2002. *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 0.8 percent year-over-year and was unchanged from April 2002 to May 2002. The largest increase was in the *Services* sector with an 8.5 percent increase from last year. *Transportation, Communication, and Utilities* also increased by 1.5 percent. Some of the significant decreases include *Government-Education, Retail Trade, and Manufacturing-Other Durable Goods* with decreases of 3.7 percent, 2.0 percent, and 4.8 percent, respectively.

Job growth has flattened out somewhat from past months although the increase in the *Services* sector was sufficient to keep the trend positive. Cutbacks in state funding have caused *Government-Education* to decrease significantly, and this trend will likely worsen as more school districts cut staffing. However, the low unemployment rate and strong consumer confidence in the Magic Valley are keeping the area's economy fairly strong. The Twin Falls area continues to outpace the rest of the state in business construction and new housing starts. New retailers have opened in Twin Falls and new jobs have been created in that sector. Technology job growth has been strong with Dell Computers continuing to hire both customer assistance and technical support personnel. Agricultural hiring has been strong despite major concerns in the Mini-Cassia area caused by the announced closure of the J.R. Simplot Company in Heyburn. A cool spring has somewhat eased water concerns and it appears that water supplies should be adequate for all crops. Despite continuing concern about state budget cutbacks, the Magic Valley economy continues to perform well, and job growth continues.

Magic Valley Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Twin Falls, Jerome, and Gooding counties

	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	50,180	51,110	49,630	-1.8	1.1
Unemployment	1,910	1,930	2,010	-1.0	-5.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.8	3.8	4.0		
Total Employment	48,270	49,180	47,620	-1.9	1.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	50,440	50,300	49,860	0.3	1.2
Unemployment	1,760	1,840	1,830	-4.3	-3.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.7	3.7		
Total Employment	48,680	48,460	48,030	0.5	1.4
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	39,280	39,280	38,960	0.0	0.8
Goods-Producing Industries	6,840	6,750	6,990	1.3	-2.1
Mining & Construction	1,900	1,810	1,960	5.0	-3.1
Manufacturing	4,940	4,940	5,030	0.0	-1.8
Durable Goods	890	890	880	0.0	1.1
Nondurable Goods	4,050	4,050	4,150	0.0	-2.4
Food Processing	3,060	3,060	3,110	0.0	-1.6
All Other Nondurable Goods	990	990	1,040	0.0	-4.8
Service-Producing Industries	32,440	32,530	31,970	-0.3	1.5
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,680	2,680	2,640	0.0	1.5
Wholesale Trade	2,340	2,340	2,330	0.0	0.4
Retail Trade	8,190	8,080	8,360	1.4	-2.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,330	1,350	1,370	-1.5	-2.9
Services	10,370	10,440	9,560	-0.7	8.5
Government Administration	3,860	3,760	3,900	2.7	-1.0
Government Education	3,670	3,880	3,810	-5.4	-3.7

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Twin Falls County

- Golden Corral Restaurant franchisee Jeff Casey of Boise has applied for a building permit to construct a Golden Corral Restaurant in the Canyon Park West development. Casey Ole International applied to build an 8,925-square-foot restaurant at 1823 Blue Lakes Boulevard North on the northeast corner of the Blue Lakes-Canyon Springs Road intersection.
- Idaho Custom Doors, Inc., a subsidiary of W.R. Clay, Inc., received an \$8,000 grant from the Twin Falls Chamber of Commerce's Business Plus II program to assist in expanding its business by an additional 8,000-square feet and expanding its staff from three to nine workers. Idaho Custom Doors, Inc. makes custom wooden doors, entries, moldings, and flooring for homes and sells them in Sun Valley, Idaho; Jackson Hole, Wyoming; California; and the Yellowstone area.

Jerome, Gooding, Blaine, Lincoln, and Camas Counties

- EE-DA-HOW Specialties, a specialty dairy processor near the center of Jerome, plans to expand its facility significantly in 2002. The initial construction will add 30,000-square feet of warehousing for raw materials and finished products. That will bring the size of the Jerome facility to more than 130,000-square feet. EE-DA-HOW buys cheese from Magic Valley cheese plants and others around the northwest, grinds it, melts it, and adds other ingredients to the mixture, which is then dried into a powder. The ingredients are used by Idaho potato companies for au gratin or scalloped potato mixes, or for snacks made in Pennsylvania, Michigan, California, Asia, and the Middle East.
- WOW Logistics, Inc., held a ground-breaking ceremony for its new 250,000-square-foot warehouse facility to be built near Jerome Cheese in Jerome. Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger Madsen, and Idaho Department of Commerce Director Gary Mahn joined local state and business leaders to welcome WOW Logistics to Idaho. The Jerome location is the first for the company outside of Wisconsin. WOW, which stands for Warehousing of Wisconsin, will help with logistics and transportation for many Idaho firms including Jerome Cheese.
- St. Benedicts Family Medical Center will be renovated in preparation for new tenants, thanks to a \$290,000 U.S. Housing and Urban Development grant it received. St. Benedicts, which is owned by St. Alphonsus Regional Medical Center of Boise, has announced that it will build a new hospital complex at Crossroads Ranch near the intersection of U.S. Highway 93 and Interstate 84. The renovation of the old facility will include installing a new generator, wiring, energy efficient windows, hot water tank, and window air conditioners. The sprinkler system will be expanded, asbestos around plumbing will be removed, and the roof will be repaired. The hospital will benefit from the renovation until the new facility is finished in about three years. Then the site will be available as an office complex for new tenants as an economic development tool.
- The Gooding County Planning and Zoning Commission gave unanimous approval to Jerome Cheese's application to pipe its wastewater to Gooding County and to build a 950-acre wastewater processing and public education facility. The plan calls for sending about a million gallons of wastewater per day through seven miles of pipe from the plant outside Jerome to the 950-acre site in southern Gooding County. There the treatment plant will extract nutrients from the water and convert them to fertilizer.
- The Walker Center in Gooding broke ground on a new 32-bed adult and 16-bed adolescent housing facility to be completed by March 2003. The \$4.5 million

project is being financed in part by a \$1 million guaranteed loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Fund, a \$1 million donation from Archie and Amy Walker, and a \$363,000 Community Development Block Grant secured by the City of Gooding based on the 44 jobs the new facility will create. The Walker Center treats both adult and adolescents who have drug and alcohol addictions.

- The Hailey City Council approved a dark sky ordinance after months of debate over the issue. The ordinance specifies that outdoor lights greater than forty watts must be shielded. Ketchum, 11 miles to the north, adopted a similar ordinance in 1999 and other cities in the area are considering such a proposal. Homeowners in Hailey will have one year to comply with the ordinance. Businesses in the area will have three years to comply. The dark sky ordinances have been adopted so that residents and tourists can have an excellent view of the beautiful night sky in the mountain areas.
- A report by the Rees Consulting Group, commissioned by the Blaine County Housing Authority, has shown that Blaine County needs an additional 665 homes to provide housing for employees who operate ski lifts and work in other service jobs. This figure is up from 580 homes specified in a 1997 report. Of the 665-home deficit, 473 are needed to house existing employees and 192 are needed to accommodate workers who would fill vacant jobs. The report does not include housing for workers who commute from outside the county or are overcrowded in existing homes.

Cassia and Minidoka Counties

- The Burley Kmart closed permanently on May 26. This closure has displaced over 75 full- and part-time workers. Most of the Kmart employees worked until the closure. Real estate agents will be looking to place a new business tenant in the 91,266-square-foot building and are hopeful that the empty store will be a useful economic development tool to attract new businesses into the Mini-Cassia area.
- The Mini-Cassia Job Service has opened a temporary satellite office at the J.R. Simplot facility in Heyburn to assist Simplot workers as they are displaced by the recently announced closure. Job Service personnel are staffing the office from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. five days a week. Job Service staff are assisting in unemployment applications, career counseling, and retraining assistance.

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SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The beginning of summer-related activity such as farming, construction, parks maintenance, road repairs, and recreation boosted employment in the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) by 610 individuals and dropped the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate from 6.3 percent in April 2002 to 5.1 percent in May 2002. The current unemployment rate dropped four-tenths of a percentage point below the May 2001 rate of 5.5 percent.

The Pocatello MSA's unemployment rate remained one-tenth of a percentage point above the Idaho rate of 5.0 percent and fell seven-tenths of a percentage point below the U.S. rate of 5.8 percent.

Southeast Idaho Table 1 shows *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased eight-tenths of a percentage point, from 32,950 in April 2002 to 33,200 in May 2002, and added 250 jobs in the area. Increased jobs occurred mainly in *Construction* (90), *Retail Trade* (70), *Services* (90), and *Government Administration* (80). Normal seasonal activity drove job creation in the area.

Effects of the national recession caused *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* to fall from 33,920 in May 2001 to 33,200 in May 2002. *Construction*, *Manufacturing*, *Wholesale Trade*, and *Retail Trade* led job losses in the Pocatello MSA over the year. Job losses can be attributed to several factors, including the completion of two major construction projects in 2001, a lack of new major construction projects, increased inventories and decreased orders, international trade issues, decreased travel, and other tourism related activities.

SPECIAL TOPIC

2001 Covered Employment

The Idaho Department of Labor recently released final covered employment numbers for 2001. Covered em-

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change From Last Month	% Change From Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,980	40,830	40,690	0.4	0.7
Unemployment	2,100	2,561	2,240	-18.0	-6.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	6.3	5.5		
Total Employment	38,880	38,270	38,450	1.6	1.1
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,920	41,150	41,380	-0.6	-1.1
Unemployment	2,040	2,580	2,360	-20.9	-13.6
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.0	6.3	5.7		
Total Employment	38,590	38,570	39,020	0.1	-1.1
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	33,200	32,950	33,920	0.8	-2.1
Goods-Producing Industries	4,380	4,280	4,780	2.3	-8.4
Mining & Construction	1,720	1,630	1,830	5.5	-6.0
Manufacturing	2,660	2,650	2,950	0.4	-9.8
Service-Producing Industries	28,820	28,670	29,150	0.5	-1.1
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	1,790	1,790	1,770	0.0	1.1
Wholesale Trade	1,320	1,390	1,430	-5.0	-7.7
Retail Trade	6,570	6,500	6,930	1.1	-5.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,760	1,740	1,680	1.1	4.8
Services	8,210	8,120	8,290	1.1	-1.0
Government Administration	3,540	3,460	3,460	2.3	2.3
Government Education	5,630	5,670	5,590	-0.7	0.7

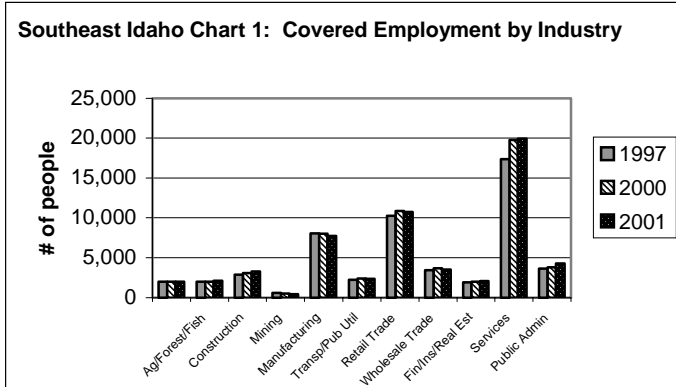
*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

ployment is the number of workers, by industry, whose employers cover their workers under Idaho's Unemployment Insurance Laws. This includes most people who work for wages.

Southeast Idaho Chart 1: Covered Employment by Industry (see page 18), compares 2001 covered employment by industry with numbers from one year ago and five years ago. Despite the national recession, Southeast Idaho's covered employment managed seven-tenths of a percentage point growth (382) in 2001 over 2000. Although the growth in 2001 is the smallest percentage growth in the past five years, it shows that Southeast Idaho's economy continued to move in a positive direction. *Public Administration* and *Construction* led industry growth. The gains in *Public Administration* actually occurred because of a classification change from *Services*. Tribal employment had been counted as *Private Employment* in the *Services* industry. Recently, that was changed and tribal employment is now listed as *Public Employment* in the *Services* industry. That change dropped *Services'* increase to less than 1.0 percent growth. *Construction* increased 7.1 percent over the year followed by *Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries* at 6.1 percent, and *Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate* at 3.4 percent. Low interest rates and consumer spending spurred the growth of 2001.

Southeast Idaho Chart 1: Covered Employment by Industry



From 1997, average covered employment grew 7.8 percent (4,079) to 56,500. Over the past five years, the highest growth rate was 2.8 percent in 1998 when average covered employment grew by 1,492. The area experienced large increases in every industry over the five-year period. *Construction* (14.1 percent), *Services* (14.6 percent), and *Public Administration* (17.3 percent) had the highest increases because of several commercial construction projects, increased business, social, and health care services, and the reclassification of jobs from *Services* to *Public Administration* that occurred between 2000 and 2001.

Job losses that occurred because of the Astaris closure did not affect covered employment in 2001 because the closure occurred at the end of December. During the remainder of 2002, if no other major employers close or have a major downsizing, if high tech manufacturing continues to add jobs, and if retail trade begins to rebuild its numbers, the area can expect growth to increase from under 1.0 percent to 1.5 percent.

Southeast Idaho Chart 2, Covered Employment by County compares 2001 growth by county with numbers from one year ago and five years ago. From 2000 to 2001, Caribou and Franklin Counties led employment growth rates in the seven-county Southeast Idaho area. Caribou County increased 4.9 percent and Franklin County increased 4.6 percent. In Caribou County, covered employment increased because of

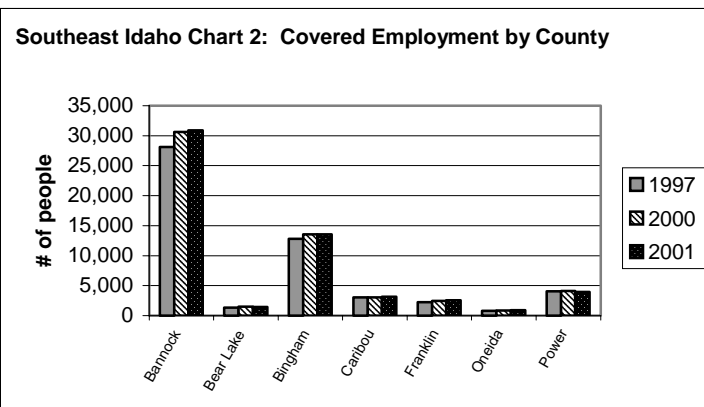
construction activity at Agrium. The increase of construction workers in the county also boosted employment in *Services*. The construction of Bear River Printing at Preston's Industrial Park boosted employment in *Construction* and *Manufacturing*. Bear Lake and Power Counties lost covered employment over the year. Bear Lake County dropped 1.0 percent from 2000 to 2001, and most declines occurred in *Construction* and *Manufacturing*. Covered employment in Power County declined 4.6 percent. Most declines occurred in *Manufacturing*.

From 1997 to 2001, Franklin, Bannock, and Oneida Counties led employment growth rates. Franklin County's average covered employment grew 14.9 percent (333), Bannock County followed with 9.9 percent growth (2,787), and Oneida County with 9.4 percent growth (77). Bear Lake, Caribou, and Bingham Counties experienced moderate growth over the five-year period. Power County, which is heavily dependent on agriculture and has very little diversification, was the only county to experience decreased covered employment since 1997. Power County's primary industry, *Manufacturing*, has slowly declined since 1997.

Low interest rates, consumer spending, and new and expanding businesses throughout most of Southeast Idaho led to increased employment opportunities over the past five years. However the national recession and international trade led to business closures and downsizing, which lowered employment growth and even caused employment declines in some areas in 2001.

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Southeast Idaho Chart 2: Covered Employment by County





NORTHEAST IDAHO

BONNEVILLE, BUTTE, CLARK, CUSTER, FREMONT, JEFFERSON, LEMHI, MADISON, & TETON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

May's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for the Bonneville Labor Market Area (LMA) dropped two-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month to 3.5 percent and remained unchanged from May 2001, as shown in Northeast Idaho Table 1. Both Bingham and Butte Counties showed a decrease of four-tenths of a percentage point, at 4.0 and 2.9 percent, respectively. Jefferson County decreased three-tenths of a percentage point to 3.6 percent, and Bonneville County decreased one-tenth of a percentage point to 3.2 percent. The LMA is 1.5 percentage points lower than the state's rate of 5.0 percent and 2.3 percentage points lower than the national rate of 5.8 percent. Individual county rates for May 2002 are shown on State Table 1 on page 3.

A year-over-year comparison shows no change in the unemployment rate for the LMA, although Butte County decreased three-tenths of a percentage point and Bingham County decreased one-tenth of a percentage point while Jefferson County increased two-tenths of a percentage point. Bonneville County remained unchanged. Idaho Falls, the largest city in the LMA, decreased one-tenth of a percentage point month-over-month, and increased one-tenth of a percentage point from May 2001.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs increased by 1,090 jobs over the month as *Goods-Producing Industries* added almost 300 jobs and *Service-Producing Industries* added 800. *Mining & Construction* added the most of any industry at a gain of 320 jobs with good weather clearing the way for work to be in full-strength on building projects. *Services* added 310 jobs, mostly in the fields of *Engineering & Management*, *Social Services*, *Agricultural Related Services*, and *Business Services*. The gain in the *Engineering & Management* sector may seem unusual after almost 750 layoffs at the Idaho National Engineering & Environmental Laboratory (INEEL) throughout 2001. The increase of 60 jobs came mostly from the primary contractor and sub-contractors of the INEEL as many sub-

Northeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Bonneville, Bingham, Butte, & Jefferson counties

	May 2002*	April 2002	May 2001	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,010	81,460	82,310	0.7	-0.4
Unemployment	2,850	3,000	2,860	-5.0	-0.3
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.5	3.7	3.5		
Total Employment	79,160	78,460	79,450	0.9	-0.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	82,270	80,910	82,550	1.7	-0.3
Unemployment	2,390	2,720	2,380	-12.1	0.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.9	3.4	2.9		
Total Employment	79,880	78,200	80,170	2.1	-0.4
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**					
<i>Goods-Producing Industries</i>	9,400	9,110	9,640	3.2	-2.5
Mining & Construction	4,440	4,120	4,220	7.8	5.2
Manufacturing	4,960	4,990	5,420	-0.6	-8.5
Food Processing	2,300	2,380	2,960	-3.4	-22.3
Ind. & Com. Mach. & Computer Equip.	530	510	430	3.9	23.3
All Other Manufacturing	2,130	2,100	2,030	1.4	4.9
<i>Service-Producing Industries</i>	53,480	52,680	53,770	1.5	-0.5
Transportation, Comm., & Utilities	2,300	2,280	2,390	0.9	-3.8
Wholesale Trade	5,340	5,340	5,770	0.0	-7.5
Retail Trade	11,510	11,310	11,260	1.8	2.2
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	1,960	1,940	1,890	1.0	3.7
Services	21,340	21,030	21,420	1.5	-0.4
Government Administration	5,370	5,210	5,530	3.1	-2.9
Government Education	5,660	5,570	5,510	1.6	2.7
*Preliminary Estimate					
**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month					

contractors were not affected by the layoffs and were able to continue with their hiring needs. The primary contractor underwent reorganization during and after the layoffs, opening management and mid-management positions in order to regroup to prioritized units and fill operational needs. Gains in the other *Services* sectors are near normal for this time of year with increased business activity and the start of the agricultural season. *Retail Trade* also added 200 jobs over the month with contributions from all sectors, but mostly in *Eating & Drinking Establishments*, *Building Materials & Garden Supplies*, and *Food Stores*. Only *Manufacturing* showed a loss over the month, 30 jobs, stemming from a decrease of 80 jobs in *Food Processing* and collective gains of 50 jobs in both *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment*, and *All Other Manufacturing*.

A year-over-year comparison shows losses of 530 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*, with losses in half the industries. *Manufacturing* had the most losses (460) leading with *Food Processing* at a loss of 660 jobs, but that was counteracted with gains in other *Manufacturing* sectors. *Food Processing* has been on the downside for several years with automation and tough agricultural years taking their toll on employee counts. *Wholesale Trade*, closely related to *Food Processing* as they both use the same products affected by the same variables,

Northeast Idaho Table 2: Eastern Idaho* Construction — Three Month Cumulative 2002

	1st quarter 2002 New Residential	1st quarter 2001 New Residential	1st quarter 2002 New Nonresidential	1st quarter 2001 New Nonresidential	1st quarter 2002 Add, Alt & Repairs	1st quarter 2001 Add, Alt & Repairs	1st quarter 2002 Total Construction	1st quarter 2001 Total Construction
Blackfoot	\$ 657,448	\$880,169	\$585,000	\$46,200	\$105,700	\$114,200	\$1,348,148	\$1,040,569
Bingham County	\$2,626,357	\$2,189,491	\$349,970	\$258,956	\$98,284	\$174,825	\$3,074,611	\$2,623,272
Idaho Falls	\$5,345,044	\$3,730,607	\$4,421,636	\$1,900,676	\$1,721,478	\$1,203,075	\$11,488,158	\$6,834,358
Ammon	\$2,067,265	\$3,206,468	\$561,500	\$265,750	\$71,197	\$57,500	\$2,699,962	\$3,529,718
Bonneville County	\$3,236,736	\$4,424,545	\$933,527	\$386,131	\$305,702	\$439,592	\$4,475,965	\$5,250,268
Rexburg	\$2,579,000	\$6,308,400	\$451,000	\$455,000	\$57,010	\$167,500	\$3,087,010	\$6,930,900
Rigby	\$365,000	\$440,000	\$22,400	\$217,600	\$24,000	\$27,450	\$411,400	\$685,050
Salmon	\$45,000	0	0	0	\$110,400	\$85,900	\$155,400	\$85,900
Lemhi County	0	\$299,000	\$82,000	0	\$54,850	\$163,092	\$136,850	\$462,092
St. Anthony	0	\$0	\$10,000	\$3,500	\$37,700	\$15,000	\$47,700	\$18,500
Fremont County	\$2,001,008	\$411,280	\$5,915	\$57,393	\$89,812	\$29,260	\$2,096,735	\$497,933
TOTAL EASTERN ID	\$18,922,858	\$21,889,960	\$7,422,948	\$3,591,206	\$2,676,133	\$2,477,394	\$29,021,939	\$27,958,560

*Eastern Idaho includes Bingham, Bonneville, Madison, Jefferson, Lemhi, and Fremont Counties

County totals **do not include data of individual cities listed.

also showed a significant loss of 430 jobs. Gains were noted in several industries including *Finance, Real Estate, Retail Trade, Government Education, and Construction*. The largest gain was seen in *Retail Trade*, followed closely by *Construction* — both at over 200 jobs. Both industries have seen steady growth for over the past year following trends of the steadily growing economy.

SPECIAL TOPIC

Construction Activity

Eastern Idaho grew by over \$1 million in total construction value the first quarter of the year compared to the first quarter of 2002, according to statistics from economist Dr. Kelly Matthews in the *Wells Fargo Idaho Construction Report* (see Table 2). New residential construction was down by almost \$3 million, with Rexburg dropping from \$6.3 million in 2001 to \$2.6 million in 2002. The market was strong in 2001 since the mid-2000 announcement that the two-year Ricks College in Rexburg (Madison County) would convert to a four-year institution named Brigham Young University – Idaho (BYU-ID). New apartment complexes also were added to help house students. The BYU-ID announcement has helped stir real estate activity in neighboring Fremont County. Idaho Falls experienced growth in all sectors, and Fremont County and Idaho Falls both experienced gains of \$1.6 million. New nonresidential construction was up by almost \$4 million in eastern Idaho. Idaho Falls showed the most growth, over \$2.5 million, while Blackfoot and Bonneville Counties each gained almost \$600,000. *Additions, Alterations, and Repairs* were up by almost \$200,000. An interesting note is that the number of new dwelling units dropped by almost 40 and the number of total permits dropped by more than 30 during the same quarter.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Bonneville County

Citing an economic slowdown and missed economic targets, Center Partners is reducing its overall workforce by 1.0 percent and cutting wages for employees. Center

Partners, a call center that provides technical support to customers of computer companies, is at least 1,600 employees strong in Idaho, with 700 of those employees belonging to the Idaho Falls center. It has a total of 3,200 employees in three states. Although the Idaho Falls center is not expected to experience any layoffs, it will cut all employees' wages by 7.0 percent and cut executives' salaries by 20 percent to, "trim costs...across the board" as noted by Vice President Richard Johnson. The company expects the Idaho Falls center to be staffed back up to around 800 employees, where it was before the slowdown, by this fall.

Madison County

Rexburg just opened a new call center, Midwest Marketing International. The company is based in Ohio, but has an office in Cedar City, Utah. Rexburg was chosen by owner Richard Parkinson, formerly of Sugar City, because of the quality of people. He is quoted in the *Post Register* as saying, "We won't have to spend hours teaching them (residents) to love the people." The company makes customer service calls to clients who already use products for depression and anxiety, and promotes stress management courses. The center currently has 12 to 14 employees, but is expected to have up to 200 employees as it progresses. It is located on Main Street.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATES OF SURROUNDING STATES

A frequent question fielded by the Idaho Department of Labor economists centers on how Idaho's unemployment rate compares with surrounding states. Using seasonally adjusted rates, FYI Table 1 (below) provides the answer.

Area	May 2001	Mar 2002	Apr 2002	May 2002
Idaho	4.9	5.5	5.2	5
California	5.1	5.2	5.3	5.3
Montana	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.1
Nevada	4.8	5.8	5.5	5.5
Oregon	6	7.9	7.5	7.3
Utah	4.1	6	5.8	5.3
Washington	6.1	6.8	7.2	7.1

**Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 21, 2002*

Each state has quite different economies, but nearly every state has experienced year-over-year increases in their unemployment rates, except Montana and Idaho. In recent months, both Oregon and Washington have had the highest unemployment rates among these western states, due largely to the downturns in high-tech manufacturing and aerospace. These states also have experienced employment losses in their natural resource industries, as has Idaho. Nevada's tourism industry was adversely effected by the 9-11 terrorist attacks. Utah reports softness in its computer and communications industries as well as an expected post-Winter Olympics slowdown in construction.

More detailed information on these states (and all states) can be accessed through the Idaho Department of Labor's Internet site: <http://www.jobservice.us/id-state.htm>.

REMEMBER Y2K? IT WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR IDAHO'S ECONOMY!

Gross State Product (GSP) is a statistic calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) and is defined as the value added in production by the labor and property located in a state. BEA recently reported that Idaho ranked second among states in the percent change, or growth, in real GSP from 1999 to 2000. Idaho's increase was 8.3 percent while the nation's was 4.5 percent. Rhode Island was the highest ranking state with a 10.7 percent increase.

Idaho's GSP growth was fueled by robust growth in production value generated by the state's manufacturing

FYI Table 2: Percent Change in Real GSP by Major Industries, 1999-2000

Industry	United States	Idaho
TOTAL	4.5	8.3
Ag., Forestry, Fishing	8.4	5.8
Mining	-15	-8.2
Construction	2.5	1.7
Manufacturing	4.1	22.3
Trans. & Public Utilities	6	6.4
Wholesale Trade	2.8	3.5
Retail Trade	7.4	7.7
Fin., Ins., & Real Estate	5.6	2.2
Services	5.1	6.8
Government	2.5	2.7

**Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, June 10, 2002*

sector, particularly the electronics manufacturing industries. *Manufacturing* contributed 22.3 percent to the state's GSP increase. FYI Table 2 (above) lists the percent change in real GSP by major aggregate industry groups for Idaho and the nation.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS

Two federal agencies that have substantial impact on Idaho's economy and public policy are celebrating their centennial anniversaries this summer. They are the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Census Bureau. The following offers a brief synopsis and history of each agency.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The Bureau of Reclamation is the largest wholesaler of water in the country, bringing water to more than 31 million people, and providing one out of five western farmers (140,000) with irrigation water for 10 million acres of farmland that produces 60% of the nation's vegetables and 25% of its fruits and nuts.

Reclamation is also the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the western United States. Its 58 power plants annually provide more than 40 billion kilowatt hours generating nearly a billion dollars in power revenues and produce enough electricity to serve 6 million homes.

Reclamation has constructed more than 600 dams and reservoirs including the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River and the Grand Coulee on the Columbia River.

History

President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act on June 17, 1902. This set the stage for

the establishment of what was to become the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. A month later, the original agency, the U.S. Reclamation Service, was established within the Division of Hydrography in the U.S. Geological Survey.

The Bureau has an interesting Internet Web site at <http://www.usbr.gov/history/homepage.htm> that contains the details of the bureau's history and projects. Some excerpts from the site's "*Brief History of The Bureau of Reclamation*" follow.

Only about 2.6 percent of the earth's water supply is fresh, and some two-thirds of that is frozen in icecaps and glaciers or locked up in some other form such as moisture in the atmosphere or groundwater. That leaves less than eight-tenths of 1 percent of the earth's water, about 30 percent of fresh water, available for humankind's use. The largely arid American West receives a distinctly small share of that available supply of fresh water. As a result, water is a dominating factor in the arid West's prehistory and history because it is required for occupation, settlement, agriculture, and industry.

The snowmelt and gush of spring and early summer runoff frustrated early western settlers. They watched helplessly as water they wanted to use in the dry days of late summer disappeared down western watercourses. Settlers responded by developing water projects and creating complicated western water law systems, which varied in detail among the various states and territories but generally allocated property rights in available water based on the concept of prior appropriation (first in time, first in right) for beneficial use.

At first, water development projects were simple. Settlers diverted water from a stream or river and used it nearby; but, in many areas, the demand for water outstripped the supply. As demands for water increased, settlers wanted to store "wasted" runoff for later use. Storage projects would help maximize water use and make more water available for use. Unfortunately, private and state-sponsored irrigation ventures often failed because of lack of money and/or lack of engineering skill. This resulted in mounting pressure for the federal government to develop water resources.

...A tradition of government subsidization of settlement of the West was long-standing when the Congress in 1866 passed "An Act Granting the Right-of-Way to Ditch and Canal Owners over the Public Lands, and for other Purposes." A sampling of subsequent congressional actions promoting irrigation reveals passage of the Desert Land Act in 1877 and the Carey Act in 1894 which were intended to encourage irrigation projects in the West.... Then, in 1890 and

1891, the Congress passed legislation reserving rights-of-way for reservoirs, canals, and ditches on lands then in the public domain. However, westerners wanted more; they wanted the federal government to invest directly in irrigation projects. The reclamation movement demonstrated its strength when pro-irrigation planks found their way into both



Democratic and Republican platforms in 1900. In 1901, reclamation gained a powerful supporter in Theodore Roosevelt when he became president after the assassination of William McKinley.

President Roosevelt supported the reclamation movement because of his personal experience in the West, and because of his conservation ethic. At that time, conservation meant a movement for sustained exploitation of natural resources by man through careful management for the good of the many. Roosevelt also believed reclamation would permit "homemaking" and would support the agrarian Jeffersonian Ideal. Reclamation supporters believed the program would make homes for Americans on family farms. Passed in both Houses of the Congress by wide margins, President Roosevelt signed the Reclamation Act on June 17, 1902.

...During its early years several basic principles underlaid the reclamation program. The details have changed over the years, but the general principles remain: (1) federal monies spent on reclamation water development projects which benefit water users would be repaid by the water users; (2) projects would remain federal property even when the water users repaid federal construction costs (the Congress could, of course, choose to dispose of title to a project); (3) Reclamation generally contracted with the private sector for construction work; (4) Reclamation employees would administer contracts to assure that contractors' work meets government specifications; (5) in the absence of acceptable bids on a contract, Reclamation, especially in its early years, would complete a project by force account (that is, would use Reclamation employees to do the construction work); (6) hydroelectric power revenues could be used to repay project construction charges.

...Initially, overly optimistic about the ability of water users to repay construction costs, Congress set a 10-year repayment period. Subsequently, the repayment period was increased...ultimately to an indefinite period based on "ability to pay". Other issues that arose included: soil science problems related both to construction and to arability (ability of soils to grow good crops); economic viability of projects (repayment potential) including climatic limitations on the value of the crops; waterlogging of irrigated

lands on projects, resulting in the need for expensive drainage projects; and the need for practical farming experience for people to take up project farms.

...In 1928, the Boulder Canyon Act ratified the Colorado River Compact and authorized construction of Hoover Dam, which was a key element in implementation of the compact. Subsequently, during the Depression, Congress authorized almost 40 projects for the dual purposes of promoting infrastructure development and providing public works jobs. Among these projects were the beginnings of the Central Valley Project in California, the Colorado-Big Thompson Project in Colorado, and the Columbia Basin Project in Washington.

Ultimately, of Reclamation's more than 180 projects, about 70 were authorized before World War II....The last significant project construction authorization occurred in 1968 when Congress approved the Colorado River Basin Project Act which included the Central Arizona Project, the Dolores Project, the Animas-La Plata Project, the Central Utah Project, and several other projects.

The dam and canal building done in Idaho by the Bureau of Reclamation has brought water to otherwise arid or marginal crop-growing land. Most of the projects have been in Southern Idaho, on the Snake River and Boise River systems. Some of the more famous projects include: the Boise Project (Southwestern Idaho); Owyhee Project (Southwestern); Palisades Project (Northeastern); and the Minidoka Project (South Central). These projects have enabled Idaho to develop its substantial agricultural industrial base. Electric power and recreational opportunities afforded by these projects also are major contributors to Idaho's economy. However, there have been some negative results as well: water storage needs have led to reduced stream flows and degraded fisheries, and run-off water from farm lands often contain unwanted minerals and chemicals from fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

CENSUS BUREAU

The U.S. Census Bureau, which collects and provides data about the people and economy of the United States, was established by Congress as the Census Office, within the U.S. Interior Department, in March, 1902. In 1903, the renamed Bureau of the Census was transferred to a new Department of Commerce and Labor. Today, the U.S. Census Bureau is an agency within the U.S. Department of Commerce.

A census of the nation's population was first done in 1790, shortly after George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the United States. It was

conducted because there needed to be a way to determine how many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives each state would have in order to comply with Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution which calls for apportionment among states based upon population. (However, it was a selective population in that it included all "free Persons," excluded Indians not taxed, and three-fifths of all other persons.) Another requirement stated that this count be done every ten years. The first census was conducted by marshals of the U.S. Judicial Courts.

In the first census, every household was visited and the name of the head of the family was recorded. Five additional pieces of information also were gathered to determine how many of the following resided in each household:

- Free White males of 16 years and upward (to assess the country's military and industrial potential)
- Free White males under 16 years
- Free White females
- All other free persons (by sex and color)
- Slaves

That first census of 1790 counted 3.9 million people. The 2000 census population count was 284.8 million.

Over the years and in keeping with the changing data needs in changing economic and demographic environments, the types of questions asked during the decennial census also have changed. Just as important, the census effort had to expand to encompass a growing population and addition of new states, territories, and other jurisdictions. Economic, housing, commuting, and migration patterns are a few examples of the items added to the census. Some of data needs are now being met through separate economic censuses. The U.S. Department of Agriculture now administers the Census of Agriculture, which records uniform data on agricultural production and operator characteristics for each county.

As the scope of the census expanded, so did the time necessary to compile and process the information. That is why the Census Bureau has been a pioneer in developing new data processing technology, ranging from using punch cards/sorting machines to adapting computers to data processing. The bureau also has repeatedly broken new ground in statistical and survey methodologies, such as probability sampling.



The required population census occurs every ten years. Yet, there is a critical need for current information, especially economic information. To meet

this need, the Census Bureau conducts a monthly Current Population Survey (CPS) for the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A sample of households is questioned monthly about the employment status of household

members, and the results are used to determine the employment situation of the nation and states. The CPS also includes supplemental questions covering such things as school enrollment, fertility, migration, income and poverty, and computer use. The supplemental questions are not asked every month but are scheduled for certain times of the year, depending upon topic.

The Census Bureau is introducing a new survey, the American Community Survey, to obtain data that is now collected on the long form of the decennial census. Although responses will be solicited from a sample of households monthly, the data will be tabulated on an

annual basis thereby providing the public with much more timely information than is now available.

In all, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts about 120 surveys a year and publishes about 1,500 reports a year. In addition, the bureau provides an extensive data bank on its Internet sites with the primary access point at: <http://www.census.gov>.

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FYI Table 3: Census Quick Facts

People QuickFacts	Idaho	USA
Population, 2001 estimate	1,321,006	284,796,887
Population percent change, April 1, 2000-July 1, 2001	2.10%	1.20%
Population, 2000	1,293,953	281,421,906
Population, percent change, 1990 to 2000	28.50%	13.10%
Persons under 5 years old, percent, 2000	7.50%	6.80%
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2000	28.50%	25.70%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2000	11.30%	12.40%
White persons, percent, 2000 (a)	91.00%	75.10%
Black or African American persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.40%	12.30%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2000 (a)	1.40%	0.90%
Asian persons, percent, 2000 (a)	0.90%	3.60%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2000 (a)	0.10%	0.10%
Persons reporting some other race, percent, 2000 (a)	4.20%	5.50%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2000	2.00%	2.40%
Female persons, percent, 2000	49.90%	50.90%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2000 (b)	7.90%	12.50%
White persons, not of Hispanic/Latino origin, percent, 2000	88.00%	69.10%
High school graduates, persons 25 years and over, 1990	479,505	119,524,718
College graduates, persons 25 years and over, 1990	106,135	32,310,253
Housing units, 2000	527,824	115,904,641
Homeownership rate, 2000	72.40%	66.20%
Households, 2000	469,645	105,480,101
Persons per household, 2000	2.69	2.59
Households with persons under 18, percent, 2000	38.70%	36.00%
Median household money income, 1997 model-based estimate	\$33,612	\$37,005
Persons below poverty, percent, 1997 model-based estimate	13.00%	13.30%
Children below poverty, percent, 1997 model-based estimate	17.30%	19.90%
*Source: US Census Bureau		

will continue to increase monthly until August, when employment peaks. All three branches of *Government* experienced job increases not only from April 2002 but also from May 2001. At this time of the year, various agencies at all levels of government begin to hire temporary workers to handle increased summer activity.

Transportation, Communication, & Utilities

The loss of 600 jobs from May 2001 is the most noteworthy event in the *Transportation, Communication, & Utilities* sector. The number of jobs in these sectors was unchanged from April to May. Again the economic slowdown has had an impact on transportation activity across the state.

Retail Trade

Retail Trade added 1,000 jobs in May. The number of jobs in *General Merchandise Stores* and *Automotive Dealers & Gasoline Service Stations* were unchanged while the other industrial sectors in *Retail Trade* reported small gains. The *Eating & Drinking Places* sector experienced the largest increase in jobs with 600. The number of jobs in this sector traditionally increases as the tourist season activity begins in earnest. However, the number of jobs in *Eating & Drinking Places*, 38,100, is a decrease of 600 from May 2001. As the economy has slowed, so has the number of new restaurants opening, while other restaurants have been going out of business. But some major cities in Idaho are experiencing expansion of new eateries, many of which are national chains that are taking advantage of Idaho's growth in population and economic stability.

The number of jobs in *Retail Trade* has decreased 1,800 from one year ago to 108,200 in May 2002. *General Merchandise Stores* was the only sector to report a job gain from one year ago at 300 new jobs. The loss of jobs reflects the economic uncertainty that retailers are feeling. Traditionally, retailers begin to hire temporary help as they gear up for the additional demand from tourists and other summer activities. That is not happening this year.

Services

Services at 152,900, accounted for about 27 percent of May's *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs*. However, this is a loss of 600 jobs from April. The good news is that the number of jobs is up 3,600 from May 2001. The month-over-month job loss occurred in *Hospitals* (100) and *Education* (1,100). The job loss in the *Hospital* sector was surprising because it has been one of the fastest growing industrial sectors. When the economy gets tight, people tend to only take care of the medi-

cal needs that are life threatening. As a result, hospitals are reporting fewer patients and thus, they need fewer workers. This is anticipated to be a short-term situation. The loss in *Education* was a result of BYU-Idaho completing their spring semester in late April, which resulted in the loss of 1,000-student jobs. The job losses were offset by gains in *Agriculture Services* (200), *Personal Services* (100), *Amusement & Recreation Services* (100), and *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* (300). The amusement parks and other summer recreation facilities are expanding their workforce as part of the spring and summer season. Field preparation resulted in more jobs in the agriculture sector. The *Management & Public Relations* sector was responsible for all of the growth in *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services*.

Over the past 12 months 3,600 new jobs have been added to *Services*. The growth has been in most sectors with *Health Services*, and *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related Services* each adding over 1,000 new jobs.

Government

The increase in the number of jobs in *Government* was in all sectors. The *Federal Government* added 400 new jobs as they geared up for summer tourist and fire fighting activities. The 300 new jobs in *State Government* occurred as the colleges and universities were completing their spring semester and preparing for graduation activities as well as hiring summer help for the state parks and recreation facilities. The 400 new jobs in *Local Government Administration* occurred as cities and counties continued to hire to meet the demands for summer recreation and maintenance activities. Jobs in this area will continue to grow until July when hiring peaks.

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Glossary of Labor Market Terms

Agriculture Employment: Persons on agriculture payrolls who work or receive pay for any period during the survey week. This includes owners, operators, unpaid family members who work at least 15 hours a week, and hired laborers.

Average Hourly Earnings/Average Weekly Hours: The average total money earnings earned by production or non-supervisory workers for selected industries. The average number of hours worked by production or non-supervisory workers including overtime, paid vacation, and sick leave. The data is collected for the week including the 12th of the month.

Average Weekly Earnings: Average Hourly Earnings multiplied by Average Weekly Hours.

Civilian Labor Force: A count of non-institutional persons 16 years of age and over residing within a specific geographic area, excluding members of armed forces, who are classified as employed, unemployed and seeking employment, or involved in a labor dispute.

Consumer Price Index (CPI): A national index measuring changes over time in the price of a fixed market basket of goods and services. There are two indexes—the All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) represents the buying habits of about 80 percent of the non-institutional population of the United States, and the Urban Wage & Clerical Workers (CPI-W) represents 40 percent of the population.

Covered Employers: Employers who are subject to state and federal Unemployment Insurance laws.

Durable Goods: Also known as “hard goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers with a normal life expectancy of three years or more.

Employed: Individuals, 16 years of age or older, who worked at least 1 hour for pay or profit or worked at least 15 unpaid hours in a family business during the week including the 12th day of the month. Individuals are also counted as employed if they had a job but did not work because they were: ill, on vacation, in a labor dispute, prevented from working because of bad weather, or temporarily absent for similar reasons.

Initial Claim: Any notice of unemployment filed to request (1) a determination of entitlement to and eligibility for compensation or (2) a second or subsequent period of unemployment within a benefit year or period of eligibility.

Labor Market Area (LMA): An area that consists of a central city or cities and the surrounding territory within commuting distance. It is an economically integrated geographic area within which individuals can reside and find employment without changing place of residence. Idaho has nine LMAs.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA): An area that has either a city with a population of at least 50,000 or a Bureau of Census urbanized area of at least 50,000 and a total metropolitan area of at least 100,000. The Office of Management and Budget designates the MSAs. There are two MSAs in Idaho—Boise City (including Ada and Canyon counties) and Pocatello City (including Bannock County).

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment: Persons on nonfarm establishment payrolls (including employees on paid sick leave, paid holiday, or paid vacation) who work or receive pay for any part of the week including the 12th of the month. It is a count of jobs by place of work. It does not include self-employed, unpaid volunteer or family workers, domestic workers in households, military personnel and persons who are laid off, on leave without pay, or on strike for the entire reference period.

Nondurable Goods: Also known as “soft goods” because they include items manufactured or provided by wholesalers that generally last for only a short period of time (three years or less).

Seasonally Adjusted: Data is seasonally adjusted to remove the impact of regular events that occur at the same time every year such as the effect of cold weather on outdoor activities, the Christmas holiday, or the summer influx of youth into the labor market.

Unemployed: Those individuals, 16 years of age or older, who do not have a job but are available for work and actively seeking work during the week including the 12th of the month. The only exceptions to these criteria are individuals who are waiting to be recalled from a layoff and individuals waiting to report to a new job within 30 days—these, too, are considered unemployed.

Unemployment Insurance: Unemployment Insurance is a program for the accumulation of funds paid by employers, to be used for the payment of Unemployment Insurance to workers during periods of unemployment which are beyond their control.

Unemployment Rate: The number of persons unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labor force.

Weekly Benefit Amount: The amount payable to a claimant for a compensable week of total unemployment.

Weeks Claimed: The number of weeks that unemployed workers claimed Unemployment Insurance benefits.

Weeks Compensated: The number of weeks for which compensation was actually paid.